

REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 4-8 are pending in the application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the respective base and intervening claims.

Applicants have elected to rewrite claim 6 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 4 from which it depended. Applicants believe that claims 7-8 are allowable in their present form by virtue of their dependency from claim 6.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent number 6,732,302 B1 issued to Palenius et al. on May 4, 2004 in view of U.S. Patent application number 2003/0036403 A1 issued to Shiu et al. published on February 20, 2003, and further in view of U.S. Patent application number 2002/0108090 issued to Ariel et al. published on August 8, 2002.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants assert that even if it were proper to combine the cited references, the resulting combination would not anticipate or make obvious applicants' claims. This is because neither Palenius nor Ariel nor Shiu teach or suggest applicants' claim 4 limitation that recites, "the decoding operations comprise convolutional decoding yielding a result on which a tail bit test and CRC decoding are performed wherein each such operation is performed M times".

As stated in the Office Action, Palenius does not teach this limitation. Moreover, applicants note that Ariel and Shiu do not teach this limitation either.

While applicants agree that Ariel discloses a method of blind detection that teaches convolutional encoding/decoding and CRC detection, nevertheless,

Ariel does not disclose a tail bit test that is performed on the result of a convolutional decode, as recited in applicants' claim 4.

The Office Action states that Shiu teaches applicants' claim 4 limitations that recite, "performing decoding operations M times where M is an integer that represents a total number of information size values" and "each such operation is performed M times". However, Shiu, like Palenius and Ariel, does not disclose a tail bit test that is performed on the result of a convolutional decode, as recited in applicants' claim 4.

Since neither Ariel nor Shiu nor Palenius teach applicants' recited limitation of, "a tail bit test that is performed on the result of a convolutional decode", a combination of Palenius and Ariel and Shiu cannot teach such a limitation either.

In view of the foregoing, claim 4 is believed to be allowable over the proposed combination of Palenius, Shiu and Ariel. Since claim 5 depends from allowable claim 4, this claim is also allowable over the proposed combination.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve the issues.

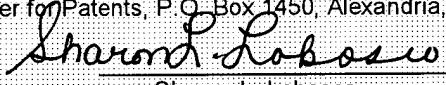
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/20/04

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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Oct. 20, 2004.


Sharon L. Lobosco Date 10/20/04